

Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.111
USSN 10/069,017

REMARKS

Claims 13-26 now stand in the application, claims 1-12 having been canceled and replaced with new claims 13-26. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The rejection of claim 1 is rendered moot by the replacement of claim 1 with new claim 13, but the rejection is respectfully reversed insofar as it applies to claim 13. Fig. 12 of Yamamoto shows a submarine optical transmission system provided with a branching unit. One skilled in the art would understand that a main submarine cable (trunk) connects A and C and that B is connected to the branching unit by a second submarine cable (branch). The same arrangement appears on, e.g., Fig. 5 of Marra, in this latter case with a plurality of branching units and branch stations CS.

The present invention is different. The invention is basically a point-to-point submarine cable (with two terminal stations like A and B in Yamamoto), in which at least one end of the submarine cable is provided with a protection mechanism. In Yamamoto, the cable between B and the branching unit is a branch cable and the cable between A and the branching unit is a trunk cable. In the case of the present invention, the two cable sections (e.g. 10, 12) are identical and are part of a protection mechanism.

By using the wording "protection mechanism", it is meant to be clear that there is provided in the submarine system according to the invention, from the construction of the system, a dedicated path to allow protection/restoration. This is not the case in Yamamoto : in

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the prior art, if there is a failure between B and the branching unit, data to be transmitted from B to, e.g., A should propagate on an alternating path which is not dedicated.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge a two month extension fee and all other required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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